

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently Amended) The structure as claimed in ~~claim 1~~ claim 13, wherein the first bolt hole of the first bracket has an axial length larger than a radius of the steering-gear housing.
3. (Currently Amended) The structure as claimed in ~~claim 1~~ claim 13, wherein the second bolt hole of the second bracket comprises a slot which is longer in a direction substantially orthogonal to an axial direction of the steering-gear housing.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The structure as claimed in claim 1,~~ A structure for fixing a steering-gear housing to a vehicle-body member, comprising:

a first bracket comprising:

a first supporting face that is configured to support one circumferential side face of a steering-gear housing,

a first abutting face that is arranged at one circumferential end and that is configured to abut a vehicle-body member,

a first bolt hole arranged through the first abutting face, and

a second abutting face arranged axially opposite to the first abutting face through the first bolt hole;

a second bracket comprising:

a second supporting face that is configured to support another circumferential side face of the steering-gear housing,

a third abutting face that is arranged at one circumferential end and that abuts the second abutting face, and

a second bolt hole that is arranged through the third abutting face at a position corresponding to the first bolt hole and that is smaller in an axial length than the first bolt hole;

a member that secures another circumferential end of the first bracket and another circumferential end of the second bracket; and

a bolt that is arranged from the second bolt hole through the first bolt hole and that is configured to be inserted through a third bolt hole formed in the vehicle-body member to clamp together the first bracket, the second bracket, and the vehicle-body member,

wherein the first bracket comprises a protrusion that is arranged at an edge of the first abutting face and that is configured to be engaged in a recess formed in the vehicle-body member.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The structure as claimed in claim 1~~ claim 13, wherein the second bracket is formed out of a sheet resilient material.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The structure as claimed in claim 1~~ claim 13, further comprising a cylindrical resilient member that is configured to be arranged between the first and second brackets and the steering-gear housing.

7. (Previously Presented) The structure as claimed in claim 6, wherein the resilient member is formed with a protrusion on an outer periphery, and wherein one of the first and second supporting faces is formed with a concave engaged with the protrusion.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The structure as claimed in claim 7,~~ A structure for fixing a steering-gear housing to a vehicle-body member, comprising:

a first bracket comprising:

a first supporting face that is configured to support one circumferential side face of a steering-gear housing,

a first abutting face that is arranged at one circumferential end and that is configured to abut a vehicle-body member,

a first bolt hole arranged through the first abutting face, and

a second abutting face arranged axially opposite to the first abutting face through the first bolt hole;

a second bracket comprising:

a second supporting face that is configured to support another circumferential side face of the steering-gear housing,

a third abutting face that is arranged at one circumferential end and that abuts the second abutting face, and

a second bolt hole that is arranged through the third abutting face at a position corresponding to the first bolt hole and that is smaller in an axial length than the first bolt hole;

a member that secures another circumferential end of the first bracket and another circumferential end of the second bracket;

a bolt that is arranged from the second bolt hole through the first bolt hole and that is configured to be inserted through a third bolt hole formed in the vehicle-body member to clamp together the first bracket, the second bracket, and the vehicle-body member; and

a cylindrical resilient member that is configured to be arranged between the first and second brackets and the steering-gear housing,

wherein the resilient member is formed with a protrusion on an outer periphery, wherein one of the first and second supporting faces is formed with a concave engaged with the protrusion, and wherein the concave of one supporting face is arranged at a connection between the first and second brackets.

9. (Original) The structure as claimed in claim 6, wherein the resilient member is formed with an incision.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The structure as claimed in claim 9,~~ A structure for fixing a steering-gear housing to a vehicle-body member, comprising:

a first bracket comprising:

a first supporting face that is configured to support one circumferential side face of a steering-gear housing,

a first abutting face that is arranged at one circumferential end and that is configured to abut a vehicle-body member,

a first bolt hole arranged through the first abutting face, and

a second abutting face arranged axially opposite to the first abutting face through the first bolt hole;

a second bracket comprising:

a second supporting face that is configured to support another circumferential side face of the steering-gear housing,

a third abutting face that is arranged at one circumferential end and that abuts the second abutting face, and

a second bolt hole that is arranged through the third abutting face at a position corresponding to the first bolt hole and that is smaller in an axial length than the first bolt hole;

a member that secures another circumferential end of the first bracket and another circumferential end of the second bracket;

a bolt that is arranged from the second bolt hole through the first bolt hole and that is configured to be inserted through a third bolt hole formed in the vehicle-body member to clamp together the first bracket, the second bracket, and the vehicle-body member; and

a cylindrical resilient member that is configured to be arranged between the first and second brackets and the steering-gear housing,

wherein the resilient member is formed with an incision, and

wherein the incision of the resilient member is arranged at a connection between the first and second brackets.

11. – 12. (Canceled):

13. (Previously Presented) A structure for fixing a steering-gear housing to a vehicle-body member, comprising:

a first bracket comprising:

- a first supporting face that is configured to support one circumferential side face of a steering-gear housing,
- a first abutting face that is arranged at one circumferential end and that is configured to abut a vehicle-body member,
- a first bolt hole arranged through the first abutting face, and
- a second abutting face arranged axially opposite to the first abutting face through the first bolt hole;

a second bracket comprising:

- a second supporting face that is configured to support another circumferential side face of the steering-gear housing,
- a third abutting face that is arranged at one circumferential end and that abuts the second abutting face, and
- a second bolt hole that is arranged through the third abutting face at a position corresponding to the first bolt hole and that is smaller in an axial length than the first bolt hole;

a member, which secures another circumferential end of the first bracket and another circumferential end of the second bracket and which is not configured to be secured to the vehicle-body member; and

a bolt that is arranged from the second bolt hole through the first bolt hole and that is configured to secure the first bracket, the second bracket, and the vehicle-body member together.

14. (Currently Amended) The structure as claimed in ~~claim 12~~ claim 4, wherein the first bolt hole of the first bracket has an axial length larger than a radius of the steering-gear housing.

15. (Currently Amended) The structure as claimed in ~~claim 12~~ claim 4, wherein the second bolt hole of the second bracket comprises a slot which is longer in a direction substantially orthogonal to an axial direction of the steering-gear housing.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The structure as claimed in claim 12,~~ A structure for fixing a steering-gear housing to a vehicle-body member, comprising:

a first bracket comprising:

a first supporting face that is configured to support one circumferential side face of a steering-gear housing,

a first abutting face that is arranged at one circumferential end and that is configured to abut a vehicle-body member,

a first bolt hole arranged through the first abutting face, and

a second abutting face arranged axially opposite to the first abutting face through the first bolt hole;

a second bracket comprising:

a second supporting face that is configured to support another circumferential side face of the steering-gear housing,

a third abutting face that is arranged at one circumferential end and that abuts the second abutting face, and

a second bolt hole that is arranged through the third abutting face at a position corresponding to the first bolt hole and that is smaller in an axial length than the first bolt hole;

means for securing another circumferential end of the first bracket and another circumferential end of the second bracket; and

means, arranged from the second bolt hole through the first bolt hole and configured to extend through a third bolt hole formed in the vehicle-body member to clamp together the first bracket, the second bracket, and the vehicle-body member,

wherein the first bracket comprises a protrusion that is arranged at an edge of the first abutting face and that is configured to be engaged in a recess formed in the vehicle-body member.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The structure as claimed in claim 12~~ claim 4, wherein the second bracket is formed out of a sheet resilient material.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The structure as claimed in claim 12~~ claim 4, further comprising a cylindrical resilient member that is configured to be arranged between the first and second brackets and the steering-gear housing.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The structure as claimed in claim 18;~~ A structure for fixing a steering-gear housing to a vehicle-body member, comprising:

a first bracket comprising:

a first supporting face that is configured to support one circumferential side face of a steering-gear housing,

a first abutting face that is arranged at one circumferential end and that is configured to abut a vehicle-body member,

a first bolt hole arranged through the first abutting face, and

a second abutting face arranged axially opposite to the first abutting face through the first bolt hole;

a second bracket comprising:

a second supporting face that is configured to support another circumferential side face of the steering-gear housing,

a third abutting face that is arranged at one circumferential end and that abuts the second abutting face, and

a second bolt hole that is arranged through the third abutting face at a position corresponding to the first bolt hole and that is smaller in an axial length than the first bolt hole;

means for securing another circumferential end of the first bracket and another circumferential end of the second bracket;

means, arranged from the second bolt hole through the first bolt hole and configured to extend through a third bolt hole formed in the vehicle-body member to clamp together the first bracket, the second bracket, and the vehicle-body member; and

a cylindrical resilient member that is configured to be arranged between the first and second brackets and the steering-gear housing,

wherein the resilient member is formed with a protrusion on an outer periphery, and

wherein one of the first and second supporting faces is formed with a concave engaged with the protrusion.

20. (Previously Presented) The structure as claimed in claim 19, wherein the concave of one supporting face is arranged at a connection between the first and second brackets.

21. (Currently Amended) The structure as claimed in ~~claim 18~~ claim 19, wherein the resilient member is formed with an incision.

22. (Previously Presented) The structure as claimed in claim 20, wherein the incision of the resilient member is arranged at a connection between the first and second brackets.

23. (Previously Presented) A structure for fixing a steering-gear housing to a vehicle-body member, comprising:

a first bracket comprising:

- a first supporting face that is configured to support one circumferential side face of a steering-gear housing,
- a first abutting face that is arranged at one circumferential end and that is configured to abut a vehicle-body member,
- a first bolt hole arranged through the first abutting face, and
- a second abutting face arranged axially opposite to the first abutting face through the first bolt hole;

a second bracket comprising:

- a second supporting face that is configured to support another circumferential side face of the steering-gear housing,
- a third abutting face that is arranged at one circumferential end and that abuts the second abutting face, and
- a second bolt hole that is arranged through the third abutting face at a position corresponding to the first bolt hole and that is smaller in an axial length than the first bolt hole;

means for securing another circumferential end of the first bracket and another circumferential end of the second bracket, which means for securing is not configured to be secured to the vehicle-body member; and

means, arranged from the second bolt hole through the first bolt hole, for securing the first bracket, the second bracket, and the vehicle-body member together.

24. (Previously Presented) A structure comprising:

a bracket assembly configured to support a steering-gear housing on a vehicle-body member, the bracket assembly comprising:

a first bracket comprising:

a primary inside supporting surface;

a primary first end; and

a primary second end;

a second bracket comprising:

a secondary inside supporting surface;

a secondary first end; and

a secondary second end; and

a fastening device,

wherein the fastening device is configured to releasably: (a) fasten together the primary and secondary second ends; and (b) fix the primary and secondary second ends to the vehicle-body member,

wherein the primary and secondary inside supporting surfaces are configured to clamp the steering-gear housing,

wherein the primary first end is configured to: (a) be joined with the secondary first end; and (b) not be joined to the vehicle-body member, and

wherein the first bracket is configured to be fixed to the vehicle-body member only at the primary second end.

25. (Previously Presented) The structure according to claim 24, further comprising:

the vehicle-body member; and

the steering-gear housing supported by the bracket assembly on the vehicle-body member.

26. (Previously Presented) The structure according to claim 24, further comprising:

a bolt that fastens together the primary and secondary first ends.

27. (Previously Presented) The structure according to claim 26, wherein the bolt is spaced from the vehicle-body member and is arranged to fasten together the primary and secondary first ends, without fastening the primary and secondary first ends to the vehicle-body member.

28. (Previously Presented) The structure according to claim 24, wherein the fastening device comprises a bolt.

29. (Previously Presented) The structure according to claim 25, wherein the fastening device comprises a bolt.

30. (Previously Presented) The structure according to claim 29, wherein the bolt extends through bolt holes formed in the primary and secondary second ends and through a bolt hole formed in the vehicle-body member, thereby fastening the primary and secondary second ends to the vehicle-body member.

31. (Previously Presented) The structure according to claim 30, further comprising:

a second bolt that fastens together the primary and secondary first ends.

32. (Previously Presented) The structure according to claim 31, wherein the second bolt is spaced from the vehicle-body member and is arranged to fasten together the primary and secondary first ends, without fastening the primary and secondary first ends to the vehicle-body member.

33. (Previously Presented) The structure according to claim 24, wherein the second bracket is configured to be fixed to the vehicle-body member only at the secondary second end.